

### In the Specification

*Kindly replace paragraphs [0001] through [0040] as follows:*

Technical field

[0001]

~~The present invention~~ This disclosure relates to a cellulose-based fiber yarn made from a bamboo and a cloth using the same which constitutes a woven or knitted fabric or non-woven fabric.

Background

[0002]

Conventionally, as a starting material for cloth such as woven or knitted fabric or non-woven fabric, in natural fiber field, starting materials by cultivation or farming has been used. ~~And, in~~ In the chemical fiber field, it is mostly occupied by cellulose-based regenerated fiber in which natural starting material is used, semi-synthetic fiber, protein-based fiber and synthetic fiber in which coal or petroleum is used as starting material. However, recently CO<sub>2</sub> increase due to lumbering forests for producing fibers or the like, or ~~the~~ environmental pollution and ~~the~~ terrestrial warming due to increase of coal- and petroleum-based industrial waste have become big problems.

[0003]

For solving these problems and for terrestrial environmental preservation, research and development ~~were~~ proceeded to change those starting materials to biomass resources (resources other than petroleum), and not only commercialization of polylactic acid fiber, PLA (polylactic acid) made from starches of corn or sweet potato, but also other developments based on bio-technology have been made rapidly. In addition, to produce fibers by cultivation, a technology for extracting fiber by mechanical methods such as slitting and splitting from bamboo, kenaf or month peach was developed and about to be commercialized. However, in this technique, although staple-fiber can be made, it is impossible to make continuation filament. On the other hand, although it is being tried to make a fiber from lecs of soybean for food ~~by technological way~~, it is a technique for making a staple fiber and it has not yet ~~been~~ succeeded to make a continuous filament. ~~And~~ Also, a fiber yarn is proposed in which Indian bamboo is spun as a cellulose rayon fiber to make a staple fiber, and it is spun to make a yarn,

and, by controlling thickness and number of twists of the fiber yarn, tenseness, resilience and recovery from creases are more improved compared to woven or knitted fabric of conventional cellulose rayon fiber. JP-A-2001-115347. However, it has not been tried to take out cellulose from bamboo and make it into filament for fabrics such as woven, knitted and nonwoven fabrics.

[0004]

Although, there is a publication describing about obtaining a textile by mixing a polyester type synthetic fiber to a staple fiber yarn made from bamboo and it is effective for stretchability and touch, but a filament yarn is not indicated. JP-A-2003-113554.

[0005]

~~The present invention~~ This disclosure makes it possible to industrially produce a cellulose-based filament by removing impurities such as resin component and ash component to thereby take out the cellulose component with a good purity. And, using the filament made by this new technology, ~~the present invention~~ this disclosure makes it possible to make a fabric made thereof such as woven or knitted fabric or nonwoven fabric.

Summary

[0006]

This disclosure replaces wood pulp and provides a yarn or a cellulose-based filament made from bamboo, or a fabric made thereof. When a bamboo or the like is used as a starting material, there is no environmental load, since the growth of bamboo is fast and its oxygen production and CO<sub>2</sub> absorption effect is large and, even if CO<sub>2</sub> is produced in the fiber production and in the incineration of garment waste, the CO<sub>2</sub> produced is equivalent to that absorbed and fixed from the air during its growth. Furthermore, like conventional wood pulp, it is possible to maintain the high moisture absorption/desorption characteristics of cellulose fiber, an excellent luster, a cold touch brought about by the absorption/desorption characteristics and, in addition, a dry touch brought about by the quality of bamboo cellulose different from the conventional rayon made from wood or cotton linter as starting materials. Moreover, by a composite design in combination with other fiber, it is possible to provide a fabric which has wearing impressions such as sweat absorption/quick drying property, stretchability, etc., or generation of ~~minus ion~~ negative ions as a healing effect, and further,

crease increase proofing property, pleat retention property and the capability of home laundry, especially, water system laundry. In addition, it is also possible to provide a sanitary woven, knitted or nonwoven fabric comprising the cellulose-based fiber and a synthetic fiber having an anti-bacterial characteristic or a system germ characteristic.

[0007]

Selected aspects of this disclosure include:

[0008]

(1) A fiber yarn which is a yarn containing a filament of cellulose-based fiber made from a bamboo whose thickness is 10 to 600 dtex and a number of twist is 0 to 3,000 T/M.

[0009]

(2) A fiber yarn according to (1), characterized in that an  $\alpha$ -cellulose component content in said filament being 80 % by weight or more.

[0010]

(3) A fiber yarn according to (1) or (2), characterized in that a total content of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose component in said filament being 90 % by weight or more.

[0011]

(4) A fiber yarn according to any one of (1) to (3), characterized in that said filament is manufactured by a viscose rayon continuous spinning method.

[0012]

(5) A fiber yarn according to any one of (1) to (4), characterized in that said fiber yarn contains at least 20 % by weight of said filament and other fiber is at least one selected from the group consisting of a natural fiber, a regenerated fiber, a semi-synthetic fiber and a synthetic fiber.

[0013]

(6) A fiber yarn according to any one of (1) to (5), characterized in that said cellulose-based fiber is made from a biomass resource as raw material.

[0014]

(7) A fiber yarn according to any one of (1) to (6), characterized in that said filament and said other fiber are made composite by a method selected from doubling and twisting, intersection twist, covering, filament mixing, false twisting and spinning intersection twist.

[0015]

(8) A cloth characterized in that it is a woven or knitted fabric or a nonwoven fabric using the fiber yarn described in any one of (1) to (7).

[0016] Detailed Description

By making woven or knitted fabric or nonwoven fabric with monofilament yarn or multifilament yarn of a cellulose-based filament made from a natural or cultivated bamboo, filament in the filament yarn is in a straight condition and becomes rigid by twisting and therefore, compared to a spun yarn of staple fiber made from a bamboo, it excels in tenseness, resilience, or drapability of textile structure. Moreover, compared to textiles using rayon filament made from conventional wood pulp and cotton linter, the fabric of the present invention has an excellent effect such that it exhibits a particular quality in dry touch, resilience and drapability based on its basic quality. Furthermore, it is possible to provide textiles such as knitted, woven or nonwoven fabric in which a composite yarn with other natural fiber, chemical fiber such as cellulose-based, synthetic fiber staple, spun yarn or filament. The textile has effects such that, when it is put on, there is no sweaty impression feel by absorption/desorption; there is ~~not~~ no tacky feeling by sweat absorption, there is no feeling of oppression by stretch following body motion, or there is a healing effect by generation of ~~minus-ion~~ negative ions, although it is not easily realizable. Furthermore, it has ~~crease~~ increased proofing property, pleat retention property and capability of home laundry, especially, water laundry; ~~in~~ In addition, it has an anti-bacterial characteristic or a system germ characteristic. Moreover, in manufacture and disposal of the material for garments and garments goods, the fiber yarn of the present invention can be developed into a material for garments and garments goods which can satisfy the demand that an environmental load can be lessened. From the application of wear near skin, such as ~~[[an]]~~ underwear and ~~[[a]]~~ dress ~~shirt~~ shirts for casual application or relatively outer wear such as ~~[[a]]~~ ~~woman~~ woman's and gentleman's jacket, trousers, or jeans etc., it can be used preferably. Moreover, since it has these properties, it is preferably applicable also as the sports garments, ~~of sport field or of old people, the working~~ work wear ~~of a~~ for the medical field, and care garments. Further, it is applicable also as ~~life materials field~~ as an interior application, such as an outer cloth for futon, a sheet, a curtain, and a cover sheet of chair.

[0017]

The yarn containing the cellulose-based filament made from bamboo is used. What is necessary is ~~just~~ to contain the cellulose-based filament made from bamboo and, of course, a filament consisting of 100% of the cellulose-based filament made from bamboo is included in the filament ~~of the present invention~~. It is preferable, for exhibiting the effect, that the cellulose-based filament made from bamboo is contained at 20% by weight or more in the bamboo containing filament yarn.

[0018]

The cellulose-based filament made from a bamboo means, unlike the chemical fiber which uses wood pulp or cotton linter pulp as a raw material, a filament made by making a pulp from a bamboo, refining the pulp to obtain cellulose, spinning the cellulose to obtain a fiber. Although it has not been known that a continuous filament can be industrially obtained by using a bamboo as a raw material and by dissolving and spinning it, ~~the present invention~~ we made it possible by refining it in the stage of bamboo pulp[[,]].

[0019]

~~Here, so-called~~ So-called bamboo is also included in the bamboo ~~of the present invention~~. The classification of bamboo and so-called bamboo is described in "knowledge of bamboo": written by Hiroshi Muroi, the first edition published on May 20, 1977 by Chiin Shoin.

[0020]

Conventionally, most of 350 sorts of bamboo grown in China can be used for manufacturing pulp for paper, but second or third ~~grader~~ grade of jichiku, ouchiku or suichiku in Chinese name which are naturally grown or cultivated widely and abundantly around Sichuan of China can preferably be used. These bamboos are cut down and their parts with especially high impurity content such as stems, branches and leaves are removed, and are made into chips by ~~beating and cutting by~~ physical and mechanical action, and then they are made into a pulp as a fiber manufacturing raw material.

[0021]

The filament ~~of the present invention~~ can be obtained with the conventional manufacturing technology for the chemical fiber. A regenerated fiber obtained by the viscose

process or the cupro ammonium process, a purified cellulose fiber obtained by an organic solvent spinning method, a cellulose acetate semi-synthetic fiber, and a cellulose-based fiber obtained by thermal plasticization and melt spinning of cellulose are preferably used. Here, regarding manufacture of the regenerated fiber by the viscose process, the conventional wet spinning method, in which a viscose spinning solution is made using alkali xanthate and carbon disulfide by using wood pulp or cotton linter pulp as a raw material, and the obtained spinning solution is spun into a sulfuric-acid bath to thereby obtain a fiber, is also applied to the present invention.

[0022]

In manufacture of the filament ~~used for the present invention~~, it becomes possible to obtain a monofilament or multifilament with thin single fiber fineness by using a bamboo for pulp, refining the pulp further, ~~making low~~ reducing the content of the cellulose of low molecular weight, pentosan, lignin, pitch and ash, and making the  $\alpha$ -cellulose content of primary pulp (pulp made from bamboo as a raw material by the pulp process by chemical or mechanical method) to 85% by weight or more. Regarding the pulp made from wood or cotton linter for conventional cellulose-based fiber such as rayon, according to the description in the item of dissolved pulp for rayon from P179 of the Chemical Fiber Handbook (edited by Society of Fiber Science and Technology, Japan and published by Maruzen Co., Ltd. on May 28, 1963),  $\alpha$ -cellulose content is specified as 91.8% or more by JIS standard, and the quality standard of the pulp for cuprammonium rayon is 96% or more. However, about the pulp made from a bamboo, the  $\alpha$ -cellulose component content of the industrially manufactured pulp which is used for fiber manufacture has not been publicly reported and is not clear.

[0023]

The manufacture method of the cellulose-based fiber filament made from bamboo is explained hereunder.

[0024]

When bamboo pulp for paper manufacture is used as a raw material with the same process conditions as the case where wood pulp and a cotton linter are used, fiber strength is low and satisfactory fiber performance cannot be obtained, since the  $\alpha$ -cellulose component ~~content~~ content of the bamboo fiber is low and the contents of  $\beta$ -cellulose, other low

molecular weight celluloses, pitch and ash component are high, ~~accordingly~~ . Accordingly, spinnability is not good, ~~and in addition, and~~ since the polymerization degree and crystallinity may be low. ~~And, a spinning of Spinning~~ filament was tried by selecting the kind of bamboo, and using a pulp capable of manufacturing staple fiber in which the contents of low molecular weight celluloses, pitch and other impurities were decreased, but spinnability was bad due to fiber breakage at spinning and industrial production was impossible. It was found that the bamboo pulp can be spun into filament by increasing the  $\alpha$ -cellulose content to 87% by weight or more by selecting the kind of bamboo, improving conditions for manufacturing pulp and fiber, and refining the material at the stage of pulp.

[0025]

During the our research, ~~in order~~ to compare the structure of the viscose rayon filament made from bamboo pulp and the viscose rayon filament made from conventional wood pulp or conventional cotton linter, thermogravimetric analysis, component analysis by X-ray fluorescence, crystallinity evaluation with the crystal structure parameter by wide angle X-ray intensity distribution measurement, etc. were conducted. Since the crystallinity of the bamboo rayon fiber is lower, it was presumed that there was a difference between cellulose components of the filaments, and that the difference brings about the difference of performances of the woven or knitted fabrics of bamboo fiber and of the fiber made from conventional wood pulp or cotton linter. Therefore, we compared the content of  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -cellulose, other low molecular weight cellulose, residual pitch and others, and as ~~the~~ a result, it became clear that the viscose rayon filament made from the bamboo cellulose has low content of  $\alpha$ -cellulose component compared with the filament made from wood or a cotton linter cellulose, and there is ~~much~~ a large content of  $\gamma$ -cellulose, other low-molecular-weight celluloses, impurities, etc. By this measuring method, it is ~~estimated~~ believed that the reason for that the content of the  $\alpha$ -cellulose component of the filament is low is because, in the viscose process in which a strong alkali and sulfur dioxide reacts, the relatively low molecular weight component in molecular distribution of the  $\alpha$ -cellulose component is further decomposed into a lower molecular weight due to the chemical effect of the molecular weight adjustment in the aging process and due to the use of the viscose spinning solution of alkali xanthate. Because the content of  $\beta$ -cellulose component in bamboo is high, it is ~~estimated~~

believed to further decompose into low molecular weight and content of  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ -cellulose decreases.

[0026]

As such viscose wet spinning method, although there are centrifugal type spinning ~~method~~ and ~~[[a]]~~ continuous spinning ~~method~~ methods, the continuous spinning method capable of making fiber thin by drawing is preferable because its molecular orientation is good to thereby improve fiber property, and excellent in uniformity of dyeing. In addition, a centrifugal spinning method, so-called “cake winding” method is insufficient in drawing effect because the distance of spinneret and pot cannot be freely changed. And, the  $\alpha$ -cellulose content of the bamboo filament is low compared to conventional rayon in which wood pulp or cotton linter is used. For those reasons, in the centrifugal spinning method, the filament is easy to be affected by the difference of winding tensions between inner and outer layers, to thereby cause difference of dyeing ability between winding layers and it becomes necessary to use layers separately, ~~thus brings about inconvenience of use~~ which is inconvenient.

[0027]

~~In the present invention,~~ JIS Handbook 32-Paper and Pulp 2004 were referred to regarding measurement of the content of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cellulose, and the content of other components. In the item g) Property and Test of Pulp-Paper and Cardboard, of the handbook, the term “ $\alpha$ -cellulose” is defined as “The component which remains without dissolving when pulp or cellulose fiber is treated with 17.5 % sodium-hydroxide solution and then diluted to 10 %. Note: This content serves as a criteria of judging quality of sample. Refer to JIS P8101 and JIS P90002”. On the other hand, regarding the term “ $\beta$ -cellulose”, it is described as “The component which reproduces when the filtrate of pulp or cellulose fiber is neutralized with acetic acid. Note: Refer to JIS P8010”. Moreover, the Test Method for Pulp for Dissolution specified in JIS P 8101-1957 indicated by the above-mentioned Chemical Fiber Handbook edited by the Society of Fiber Science and Technology, Japan was also referred to. In consideration of these, ~~in the present invention,~~ as samples, filaments made by the method of viscose process were evaluated by the methods described in Examples.

[0028]

In view of good spinnability of bamboo pulp made from bamboo, and in view of processability capable of being used for woven or knitted fabric or nonwoven fabric, and in view of product performance, it is preferable that the strength/elongation of the filament is 1.5 cN/dtex and 15% by weight or more. To satisfy it, it is preferable that  $\alpha$ -cellulose content is 80% by weight, more preferably, the total content of  $\alpha$ -cellulose and  $\beta$ -cellulose is 90% by weight or more. ~~Said~~ The  $\alpha$ -cellulose contributes to the toughness of fiber such as strength and elongation and the content of  $\beta$ -cellulose and other component of which molecular weight is smaller than  $\alpha$ -cellulose contributes as a component to decrease fiber crystallinity. By increasing the low molecular weight component in a range of fiber performance capable of being made into woven or knitted fabrics, it becomes possible to impart a new property which is different from that obtainable from the filament made by conventional wood pulp. As those new effects, since the low molecular weight component contains an antibacterial component, ~~in addition,~~ it decreases crystallinity, excellent characteristics in the points of, such as touch, absorption/desorption property, dyeability, ~~minus-ion~~ negative ions and cool touch, can be obtained.

[0029]

The filaments made from wood pulp and bamboo pulp, respectively, were dyed in ~~[[a]]~~ the same bath using direct dye Kayarus supura Blue BWL which is classified as C (poor level in dyeing uniformity) in the SDC classification (J. Soc. Dyers. Colourists. 64. 145 (1948)) under the following ~~condition~~ conditions. The fibers were dipped into the bath at 50°C and the bath temperature was raised to 90°C in 10 minutes. ~~After keeping at that temperature for 20 minutes,~~ The fibers were washed with water after 20 minutes. The dye concentration was 0.5 %owf, bath ratio was 1:200 and Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> concentration was 10 g/l. Surface dyeing concentration K/S of the fiber was measured after dyeing. ~~Here,~~ K/S means  $(1-R) \times 2/2R$ , and R means the spectral reflectance at the maximum absorption wavelength. Measurement of K/S was performed with the D65 light source and 10-degree visual field. K/S was 2.69 for the filament made from bamboo and 1.81 for the filament made from wood pulp and the result indicated the structural difference based on the difference of  $\alpha$ -cellulose contents.

[0030]

~~In the present invention, the~~ The bamboo containing filament yarn may be constituted by of either of ~~monofilament~~ monofilaments or of ~~multifilament~~ multifilaments. For textiles, ~~said the~~ filament may be used alone or as a composite yarn or as a mixed filament yarn. As for the thickness of the yarn, 10 – 500 dtex is preferable when used alone, and 30 – 600 dtex is preferable when used as a composite or as a mixed filament yarn. For a garments application, 450 dtex or less is suitable. In the case of a monofilament, 10 to 50 dtex is preferable, and in case of a multifilament, it is preferable that single fiber fineness is in the range of 1 to 20 dtex, since cellulose-based fiber is easy to become a fluff and it is necessary to secure high processability.

[0031]

The number of twists needs to be 0 to 3,000 T/M. ~~In order to~~ To make a woven or knitted fabric or a textile having excellent glossy appearance which is characteristic to cellulose fiber, 0 T/M (non-twisted) is preferable. Since ~~[[a]] fluff may generate~~ be generated at weaving in the case of multifilament, ~~it~~ It is preferable to carry out sizing in such a case. When not performing sizing, it is preferable to choose conditions by adjusting single fiber fineness or total fineness, and additionally imparting low or middle twist of 300 to 1,000 T/M to obtain a required glossy appearance. In the knitting process, since there is less friction than in the weaving process, the fiber yarn can be used without twist, but it is preferable to impart a low twist of about 100 to 300 T/M. To impart dry touch, tenseness, resilience and drapability to the woven or knitted fabric, it is preferable that the additional twist number is 1,000 to 3,000 T/M. In general, cross-section configuration of cellulose-based filament differs according its production method. In a viscose or acetate process, it is like a rias type coast and in copper ammonia and organic solvent spinning it is generally a round cross section. Although a variant cross-section configuration is possible by the shape of a spinneret, it is preferable to decide the number of twist according to required effectiveness, since the effect of twist differs greatly according to the cross section configuration. In the case of a cellulose-based fiber, in general, it swells ~~under existence~~ in the presence of alkali or the fiber structure changes by chemical change. However, since imparting drapability by hydrolysis like in case of polyester is not ~~expectable~~ expected, it is preferable to choose suitably the number of twists

and the density of woven or knitted fabric. Moreover, in case of the additional twist number of the cellulose-based filament is in highly twist region of 2,000 to 3,000 T/M, in dyeing and finishing process for the woven or knitted fabric, the apparent twist number increases due to the volume expansion in wet condition. The expansion ratio will be 20 to 30 % ~~to~~ in the dry state, and due to the increase of the twist number by the volume expansion and because the cellulose fiber is not thermoplastic, a big untwisting stress generates to cause a structural change, and resulted in manifesting shibo (numerous tiny unevenness). That is, it contributes greatly to the products which have yoryu georgette crepe or crepe. In addition to the dry feeling of the cellulose fiber made from bamboo, a touch by a synergistic effect of twist structure and the uneven structure is suitable for materials for spring and summer applications. Furthermore, with effects of antibacterial or cold touch, the possibility of imparting new additional value increases. Moreover, in the case of the cellulose-based continuous filament yarn made from bamboo or so-called bamboo, although it ~~change~~ changes somewhat with processes, as for the point that the stretching behavior of the fiber by a load differs greatly ~~under existence~~ in the presence of water, especially in a damp or wet condition, it is in the same trend as that of the cellulose-based fiber made from cotton linter or wood pulp. ~~And, it~~ It is preferable to control humidity and water content in the process of making woven or knitted fabric or nonwoven fabric.

[0032]

When the viscose rayon process is utilized as the manufacturing process of the cellulose-based filament, color difference of 1.0 or more as a difference of the dye affinity evaluation E value,  $\Delta E$ , may occur between inner and outer layers of the rolled-up layers in the winding pot and the quality of the dyed fabric may not be good. In particular, when making it into a composite yarn with other fiber, since it is difficult to classify them and use separately, it is preferable to use the filament made by the continuous spinning method.

[0033]

When using the cellulose-based filament as textiles, such as a woven or knitted fabric or a nonwoven fabric, ~~in order~~ to cover its faults while taking advantage of its characteristics, it is preferable to use it ~~by combining~~ in combination with other ~~fiber~~ fibers to make a composite. In this case, ~~in order~~ to exhibit effects of moisture absorption/desorption property,

antibacterial property, dry touch, tenseness, resilience, cold touch, and further, generating ~~minus-ion~~ negative ions, it is preferable to contain 20 % by weight or more of the cellulose-based filament, still more preferably, 30% by weight or more. ~~In order to~~ To impart better antibacterial property, moisture absorption/desorption property and cold touch, although it depends on other ~~component~~ components used in combination or ~~on~~ in the textile structure, it is also preferable to contain 50 % by weight or more. For example, in the case of imparting moisture absorption/desorption property, and when regenerated filament is made from bamboo made by the viscose process or the cupro ammonium process, it is preferable to make a woven or knitted fabric or nonwoven fabric made of 100 % of such filament, and in such a case, 8 - 9% as  $\Delta$ MR of the textile can be obtained. In the case of blend ratio of this cellulose-based fiber is changed, absorption/desorption characteristics is proportional to that blend ratio. If mixed fiber is a polyester type, since the polyester type fiber has almost no moisture absorption property, when ~~said~~ the filament is mixed 50% by weight,  $\Delta$ MR becomes about 4 - 4. 5%. Usually, the level felt that moisture absorption/desorption characteristics are comfortable at the time of wear is 2% or more, and it is preferable also from this point, too, that a cellulose-based filament is 20 % by weight or more in fiber yarn. ~~Here, the~~ The absorption/desorption property does not depend on how to ~~composite~~ mix the fiber since it depends on movement of moisture, but as to cold touch feeling,[[,]] since it is a feeling by directly contacting ~~with~~ skin, it depends on the structure or composite state of the fabric and it is preferable to design textiles upon confirming data rather than the blending ratio.

[0034]

As methods for making the composite yarn, conventionally known methods such as combination twist in which two or more of said filaments are doubled and twisted, intersection twist in which said filament is doubled with other filament or spun yarn and twisted, covering in which polyurethane or other spandex yarn is passed through a hollow spindle as a core and ~~said~~ the filament is overfed and twisted, filament mixing in which ~~said~~ the filament is doubled with other fiber and interlaced by compressed air or a composite false twisting by multi-feeding said filament to false twister, can be used. However, the cellulose-based filament made from bamboo has characteristics of low strength and low shearing stress to become a fluff, and accordingly, it is preferable, especially in case of multifilament, to ~~handle~~ be handled

carefully under milder conditions than those for the conventional synthetic fibers. In particular, it is preferable, for making a composite yarn by air interlacing, to reduce air pressure very low; for making composite yarn by machines such as doubling machine, doubling and twisting machine or double twister, to make curvature of the lot, etc., of the yarn path low, or as straight as possible; and to reduce the number of guides as ~~few~~ much as possible.

[0035]

The cellulose-based fiber made from a bamboo has antibacterial performance based on the raw material. ~~Said~~ The antibacterial component is affected by chemicals used and heating temperature in production process. In the case of viscose rayon process, the antibacterial property is influenced by the heat for increasing  $\alpha$ -cellulose content and removing impurities by treatment with sodium hydroxide or the like. In addition, although the bamboo pulp is made thermoplastic by adding ethylene glycol to change it into melt-spinnable thermoplastic polymer, the antibacterial property often decreases by the effect of heat at the melt spinning. For making the system germ activity value of 2.2 or more so that the antibacterial level ~~pass~~ passes the SEK standard, it is preferable to design the yarn in consideration of composite ratio, composite type and its structure. ~~In order to~~ To maintain this natural antibacterial property also after washing, it is also preferable to add a chemical having antibacterial effect in dyeing or finishing process. It is also preferable to compound the quinine-based antibacterial component obtainable by ethanol extraction from bamboo or the antibacterial component obtainable by separating from bamboo vinegar liquid which is taken out by compressing bamboo, to the raw material of the fiber, or to process it into a textile in dyeing or finishing process. On the other hand, the antibacterial property may be imparted by compounding acetylated chitosan which is conventionally used as an antibacterial agent into the spinning liquid, or by processing the obtained yarn or woven or knitted fabric with the antibacterial agent.

[0036]

As for the above-mentioned fiber yarn, it is preferable that the cellulose filament and other fiber are made into a composite yarn by a method selected from doubling and twisting, intersection twisting, covering, filament mixing, false twisting, spinning intersection twisting,

etc. Although the fiber to be combined is not limited in terms of material or type, it is preferable to choose the material which can exhibit the effect of the cellulose-based filament. For example, although woven or knitted fabric of 100% of cellulose-based fiber yarn can be given a shrink-proofing effect by resin treatment in dyeing or finishing process, such as with melamine type resin or glyoxal type resin, ~~said~~ the resin treatment may also cause hardening of touch and a bad influence on the environment by the existence of formalin in the resin. Therefore, ~~in order to give~~ provide shrink-proofing property without resin treatment, making a composite with polyester fiber is also preferable. Moreover, cellulose-based fiber yarn has low wet strength and there is no stretchability in woven or knitted fabric, but by making a composite with a polyurethane-based spandex fiber or a conjugate fiber using polytrimethylene terephthalate-based polymer, or a conjugate fiber of 100% polyester-based polymer, it becomes possible to impart stretchability to the cellulose-based fiber yarn and improvement in strength also becomes possible. When considering the environment ~~important~~, it is preferable to make a composite yarn with the raw material fibers, such as polylactic acid fiber, cotton, hemp, silk, wool, regenerated fiber which uses cotton linter as the raw material.

[0037]

~~Here, the~~ The cellulose-based filament ~~of the present invention~~ is preferably consists of a biomass resource (non-petroleum resource) for the environment.

[0038]

The raw yarn to be made into a composite ~~with~~, may be any one of cotton, hemp, wool, silk, spun yarn in which staple fiber of regenerated fiber or semi-synthetic fiber is used, or filament of silk or chemical fiber. It can be a combination in which, as far as the characteristics and effects of the respective fiber can be exhibited in the woven or knitted fabric or nonwoven fabric obtainable by making the bamboo fiber composite.

[0039]

Next, the constitution of the textile using the filament made from bamboo is explained.

[0040]

As the woven fabric, it may be that in which both of warp and weft are constituted by ~~said~~ the filament or the composite yarn, or may be that in which only warp or weft is constituted by ~~said~~ of the filament. The woven structure can be chosen without limitation including publicly known structures. Regarding warping, sizing, sutra sequence beaming, etc., in the weaving process, they can be applied in the same conditions as applied to conventional cellulose-based chemical fiber, for example, rayon yarn, acetate yarn, or Bemberg yarn. In particular, in the sizing, it can be carried out by using a starch-based or a polyvinyl alcohol-based paste and by choosing conditions suitably. Since shear strength is low as its characteristic, it is preferable to treat the yarn so that no fluff due to friction is produced. In addition, in tensile strength/elongation characteristics (S-S curve) under moisture absorption or in wet, because the yielding point of stress-strain decreases as humidity increases, the humidity condition of each room of the weaving process is set to the standard condition (20°C, 60%) and the weaving is carried out. Regarding the selection of weaving machine, it is a rapier or an air jet in general, and it is preferable to use a water jet only in the case in which a composite ratio of the cellulose-based fiber is low. In the case of woven fabric in which ~~said~~ the filament yarn is used alone, although basic woven fabrics of such as plain structure, e.g., taffeta, habutae, or three dimensional structure, e.g., twill, satin have wide application for garments such as lining, formal wear, shirts, blouse, or for other materials such as curtains, wrapping cloth and ribbon tape. In addition to that, by making composite woven fabrics with other natural fibers or chemical fibers, physical properties and appearance can be improved and can be applied in wider uses.

***Kindly replace paragraph [0044] as follows:***

[0044]

Hereafter, ~~the present invention is~~ our yarns are explained with reference to Examples. However, the ~~present invention~~ description is not limited to these examples.

***Kindly replace paragraphs [0055] through [0059] as follows:***

[0055]

[Number of generated ion]

Measuring device: AIR ION COUNTER IC-1000 (made by Alpha · LAB (U. S.))

Measuring condition: room temperature of  $20\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ , humidity of  $50\pm 3\%$ , room size 3m x 5m x 5m

Measuring-time 10 seconds, suction volume 12L/min and sample vibration cycle 3 cycles/second

Sample size 30 cm x 20 cm

Evaluation result: average number of generated ion in 10 seconds after start of measurement (piece/cm<sup>3</sup>)

It is indicated in a negative value when minus a negative ion generates is generated and in a positive value when plus a positive ion generates is generated. The total of the negative value and the positive value values is considered as the number of generated minus ion negative ions. -1000 pieces/ cm<sup>3</sup> is considered as success.

[0056]

(Example 1 and Comparative examples 1, 2)

A repulped raw material with a high content of  $\alpha$ -cellulose component was prepared by making a pulp from a bamboo of China, and further refining the pulp by immersing it in caustic soda, and then ~~smashing~~ mashing and refining. Using the repulped raw material, a multi-filament yarn of 130 dtex- 30 rayon filament was spun by centrifugal spinning to thereby prepare a cake of 525g in weight. As comparisons, a multi-filament yarn of 120 dtex-30 made from cotton linter pulp and made by centrifugal spinning and a multi-filament yarn of 84 dtex-24 made by the continuous spinning process were prepared. The obtained filament yarns of the centrifugal spinning, the refined cake, and the cheese made by the continuous spinning were inspected. Although it was practically equal concerning surface irregularity when the filament yarn made from cotton linter pulp and the filament yarn made from bamboo pulp were compared, but as a result of observing the cross sections, the filament made from bamboo has slightly flat cross section and its white color was a little bit yellowish. The result of the physical properties measured is shown in Table 1.

[0057]

The strength of the multi-filament yarn made from bamboo was low as compared with that of the filament yarn of the centrifugal spinning made from a cotton linter, and was almost comparable as that of the filament yarn of the continuous spinning. ~~And, the~~

~~elongation~~ Elongation was a little bit larger than that of the centrifugal spinning and the boiling water contraction was comparable with that of the centrifugal spinning. In the colorimetry of the yarn color, lightness is was practically equal, although the filament made from bamboo was rich in yellow tone and the filament made from cotton linter was rich in blue tone. The obtained two multifilament yarns of continuously spun and taken into cakes made from bamboo and cotton linter were served for woven fabric preparations.

[0058]

The test conditions are as follows.

[0059]

The warp was subjected to middle twist of 1,000 T/M by a double twister, to vacuum steam twist set at 70°C for 30 minutes, to partial warping and sutra sequence, and woven by a rapier loom in 3/3 twill construction using various wefts. The obtained gray fabrics were passed to dyeing and finishing process. To observe wet behavior ~~in wet~~ of the fabric in the dyeing process, scouring and relaxation were carried out by changing M/C model partially. The relaxation temperature was 98°C in all cases. In the case of weft having additional twist, the fabric made of the yarn of Example 1 which was subjected to liquid flow relaxation, showed a large swelling in volume and a large processing contraction. The feeling of the fabric just after relaxation was very dry which is different from conventional rayon yarn, namely, it was a dry touch like that of an acetate. Moreover, the crimp due to structural contraction of the warp and the weft caused by the swelling was notable, and the fabric was very excellent in tenseness and resilience. It is presumed that this is brought about by the fact that, although the multifilament yarn made from bamboo was prepared in the same centrifugal spinning condition as that of the multifilament yarn made from cotton linter, as seen from the difference of characteristics in tensile strength and tensile elongation, the  $\alpha$ -cellulose content of bamboo is lower than that of cotton linter and there is a difference in molecular orientation to bring about high swelling in ~~wet~~ water.

***Kindly replace paragraphs [0061] through [0063] as follows:***

[0061]

The gray fabrics and their process parameters are shown in Table 2.

Examples 2 to 10 and Comparative example 3

Using 84 dtex x 24 filament bright filament yarn made from bamboo pulp made by the centrifugal spinning method of viscose rayon process and, for comparison, a rayon bright filament yarn made from wood pulp (84 dtex x 24 filament), various textiles were prepared. The contents of  $\alpha$ -cellulose,  $\beta$ -cellulose and other components of both rayon filaments were determined by the above-mentioned chemical analysis. As the a result, the component ratio contained of the filament made from bamboo was  $\alpha$ -cellulose 87.5 % by weight,  $\beta$ -cellulose 10.6 % by weight and other components 1.9 % by weight. On the other hand, as for the filament made from wood, it was  $\alpha$ -cellulose 90.8 % by weight,  $\beta$ -cellulose 9.0 % by weight and other components 0.2 % by weight.

[0062]

In Examples 2 and 3, using used 84 dtex-24 filament made from bamboo as warp and, without combining with other yarn and without additionally twisting, subjected to sizing and warping and set to a rapier loom. A fabric in which, as weft, (A) the yarn used in the warp (Example 2) is used, and a fabric in which, as weft, (B) a composite yarn, in which a crimped conjugate fiber yarn (56 dtex-24 filament) made by a bimetal type composite spinning of PET/PPT (polyethylene terephthalate/polytrimethylene terephthalate) was doubled with the yarn used in the warp and intersection twisted, is was used (plain habutae and twill habutae, Example 3), were made and subjected to dyeing and finishing.

[0063]

In the case of a woven fabric of conventional rayon filament yarn in which the warp is not additionally twisted, a slimy touch is its general image, but the fabric made of the filament made from bamboo has a slimy touch which is relatively dry, and was a woven fabric of a novel feeling. The woven fabric was sewed into a ~~shirts for lady~~ shirt. An article with a high quality feeling having a fresh dry touch was obtained.

*Kindly replace paragraphs [0066] through [0076] as follows:*

[0066]

In the tumbler dried fabrics, the fabric in which PET/PPT crimped conjugate yarn was used as the weft showed an excellent surface change, and had dry and light touch with excellent stretchability. Regarding the feeling of the finished fabrics, both of them had relatively dry touch with excellent stretchability, tenseness and resilience, which is different

from the feeling of conventional rayon woven fabric. As the result of sewing them into ~~woman~~ dresses, articles excellent in drapability and appearance were obtained.

[0067]

(Example 11)

The test yarn of Example 1, 120 dtex-30 filament yarn made from bamboo was used as weft, and a beam of a regular polyester filament (56T-36 filament) of triangular cross sectioned bright yarn having a low twist of 200 T/M and sized, was set to a air jet loom as warp. The cake of the test yarn was rewound by a cone winder for filament and additionally twisted in S and Z directions in the twist number of 1,300. A plain weave was made by alternatively filling the S and Z additionally twisted yarns. In the gray fabric, the woven density was 167 warp yarns/2.5 cm and 82 weft yarns/2.5 cm. Next, as a dyeing process, the fabric was subjected to scouring and relaxation at a condition of 50 to 98°C by an open cloth type scouring and relaxation machine, the open soaper, and after pre-set by dry heat tenter at 180°C, 15 % weight reduction of polyester by alkali in wince type M/C with caustic soda with an amine-based reduction accelerator was carried out, and, by a liquid flow dyeing M/C, dyed only the cellulose side in very light color with a reactive dye. The densities of the warp and weft of the obtained fabric were 176 x 97 yarns/2.5 cm, respectively. As the a result of evaluation of the finished fabric, in warp and weft directions, dimensional contraction by 180°C dry heat was -0.5 % and -1.5 % respectively, tear strength was 1,359g and 750g, respectively, seam displacement was 0.8 mm and 0.5 mm, respectively, snagging was grade 4 and grade 4, respectively, pilling according to JIS 1076 method (ART method, the method by appearance retention type tester) was grade 4 to 5. All of these are qualities which can pass the application standard for linings of juban (underwear of kimono), susoyoke (a lining of kimono), etc. Moreover, ΔMR, a barometer of feeling at the time of wear, was 5. 2, contrary to regular polyester which absorbs almost no moisture, and the touch of the test fabric had cold feeling which may be due to the moisture absorption effect, and has a light and dry touch. Compared to the touch of the conventional rayon which is slimy, the touch of this test fabric was somewhat similar to that of acetate rather than to that of rayon, and it was different from that of viscose type. The result of measurement of ~~minus-ion~~ negative ions showed that the number of ~~minus-ion~~ negative ions was 6000 ions/cc and the number of plus ion was 1,000

ions/cc.

[0068]

(Example 12 and Comparative example 4)

Using the test yarn of Example 1, 120 dtex-30 filament, a woven fabric by pre-dyed yarn was prepared. ~~Said~~ The test yarn, after an additional twisting of 200 T/M, wound on a soft wide cheese and subjected to a cheese dyeing with a reactive dye. As the warp, a polyester dyed yarn of semi-dull 56T-24 filament of round cross section was warped and the dyed yarn was filled as the weft by an air-jet loom and a plain weave with check design of beige, red and black was made. ~~And in~~ In the dyeing process, the plain weave was subjected to scouring, relaxation, set, drying, treatment of a finishing agent and final set to thereby make a woven fabric for lining application. The quality feeling of the fabric was, being different from that of polyester 100%, light and dry with a cold feeling. Compared to a lining of the almost same design in which a Bemberg filament is used, unlike the Bemberg lining which is very slippery and a little bit slimy, the fabric of this test had a touch excellent in fresh feeling.

[0069]

Regarding absorption/desorption property, it was excellent as  $\Delta 6.3\%$ , the frictional electrification voltage was 0 which indicates an excellent antistaticity.

[0070]

(Example 13)

The test filament 130T-30F of Example 1 was set to a creel of a warping machine, and wound on a beam of 30 cm width and set to a tricot machine. A mesh construction was knitted with total warp of 4,212 yarns and front and back reeds with ~~said~~ the test filament having no twist. The width of the gray fabric was 254 cm, well 28 W/25 cm, course 41 W/25 cm, 150 racks, weight 14.2 kg. Next, the fabric was passed to a dyeing processes. The processes were constituted by set of the gray fabric, dyeing, drying, resin processing, final set and the finished fabric had structural parameters of 247 cm width, well 28W/2.5 cm, course 42W/2.5cm. The finished fabric had a dry and fresh cold feeling and suitable for linings of summer ~~wears~~ wares.

[0071]

(Example 14 and Comparative example 5)

A pulp made from bamboo was refined again, and a viscose spinning solution was prepared by the process for making viscose rayon from wood pulp or cotton linter, and a bright yarn of 84 dtex x 24 filament was made by, as the spinning method, centrifugal spinning (cake winding) and by continuous spinning method (cheese winding). The cake was scoured in the following process and rewound on a cone by a rewinder. The weight of single cake was set to 550g and the weight of single cheese of continuous spinning was set to 1 kg. The quality of the raw yarn for woven or knitted fabric needs uniformity. In the case of a viscose process filament made from bamboo, compared to conventional raw yarn made from wood pulp, there is an inclination that the content of  $\alpha$ -cellulose component is low and the content of  $\beta$ -cellulose and other low molecular weight component is high. That is, because its crystallinity is low and the content of amorphous portion is high, in order to check whether there is no problem in level dyeing, concerning the difference of inner and outer layers of package or the difference between spinning machines, respective yarns were continuously filled as weft, and then the gray fabric was dyed in a same batch. Dyeing and finishing were carried out by a high pressure liquid flow dyeing machine in one bath two step dyeing with a disperse dye 0.3 %owf and a direct dye 0.15 %owf (both were blue), the bath ratio 1:10 and the dyeing temperature 130 to 90°C. After final set, by checking the fabric by visual inspection and by the difference of E value,  $\Delta E^*a^*b^*$ , according to  $L^*a^*b^*$  color-coordinate-system measurement by spectral colorimeter, the difference between inner and outer layers of cake, the difference of inner and outer layers between cakes (spinning machines), the difference between inner and outer layers of the cheeses of continuous spinning and difference of inner and outer layers between cheeses (spindles) were measured and compared. The colorimetry is carried out by spectral colorimeter CM-3600 of MINORUTAKONIKA Sensing Co. Ltd. and with light source D65.

[0072]

As the a result of the colorimetry, every cake yarn exhibited dyed color difference,  $\Delta E$ , far larger than the acceptable value, 0.5, which difference was a level capable of realizing by visual inspection of the fabric, and it was necessary to use separately, as warp, the inner and outer layers,. On the other hand, the  $\Delta E$  value of the continuous spinning yarn of between

inner and outer layers of cheese and the difference between cheeses were in the range of 0.5 or less, and it was confirmed that it is a quality which could be reliably used.

[0073]

(Example 15)

Using a bright yarn of 84 dtex-24 filament made from bamboo and made by continuous spinning of viscose process of Example 14, and a doubled and twisted yarn of a bright yarn of 84 dtex-36 filament of polylactic acid fiber filament with a number of twist of 1,000T/M in S direction, as the warp and the weft, respectively, and a woven fabric of plain construction was made by a rapier loom. Dyeing and finishing were carried out according to the general conditions for ordinary viscose rayon woven fabric except the condition for imparting natural wrinkle to the fabric beforehand. Dyeing was carried out with a disperse dye at 110°C and with a reactive dye at 80°C. The fabric obtained was finished so that no iron is necessary in view of the iron-proof property of the polylactic acid fiber. The appearance matched the quality feeling of cellulose-based fiber made from bamboo, with a natural feeling and very dry touch, and a fabric having a quality feeling capable of applying to summer wears was obtained. The fabric is expected, from the ecological combination, as a material which is effective to prevent environmental pollution in the future, because it is constituted of cellulose-based fiber made from bamboo and the polylactic acid fiber made from corn, and the combustion energy and the CO<sub>2</sub> generation can be decreased. In addition, as a result of measurement of absorption/desorption property, ΔMR was 4.5 which means that 50% use of the cellulose-based fiber corresponds to the effect of cotton, thus, it is a material suitable for spring/summer wears.

[0074]

(Example 16)

Using a part of the cake yarn of viscose process filament made of bamboo and continuous spinning yarn used in Example 14, composite yarns, by a composite false twisting process with different feeding speeds, with a thick-and-thin yarn of semi-dull type polyester filament of 84 dtex-36 filament were prepared. The composite false twisting process was conducted according to the publicly known method disclosed in JP-B-59-26989, "A false twisted composite highly twisted yarn and a method making thereof". As the false twisting

machine with two feeding portions, spindle type false twister 103 made by Toshiba Machine Co., Ltd. with first and second heaters was used. The conditions were set to, false twisting spindle rotation speed, 110,000 rpm; number of false twisting, 2,570 T/M; over-feed ratio of covering yarn to core yarn, 90%; first and second heater temperatures, 175°C and 185°C, respectively. As the feed yarns, for the core yarn of the composite false twisted yarn, the polyester thick-and-thin yarn was used, and for the sheath yarn which constitutes a slub yarn having singly folded portions and triply folded portions, the cellulose-based filament made from bamboo was used. Process conditions suitable for the cake yarn and the continuous spinning yarn in the false twisting process was tested. ~~And, it~~ It was found that the factor which is most important to improve processability and configuration stability of the yarn, namely the condition for the sheath yarn to entangle to the core yarn firmly when overfed and make it possible to maintain its configuration when used as warp in weaving stage is that it is necessary to additionally twist the sheath yarn. It was also found that the number of ~~the~~ additional ~~twist~~ twists should be larger for the continuous spinning yarn than for the cake yarn. ~~This time, the~~ The number of the additional twist for the cake yarn was 200 T/M and for the continuous spinning yarn was 350 T/M. ~~The reason~~ It is estimated believed that, at entangling to the core yarn, the multifilament yarn of continuous spinning lacks unity. At spinning of the cake yarn, an original twist is imparted to the filament yarn by rotation of pot when wound.

[0075]

The obtained two types of the composite false twisted yarn were used as warp and weft, respectively, and a plain woven fabric and a twill woven fabric were prepared and dyed and finished. The woven fabrics obtained were sewed into a gauze-like and haori type spring/summer jacket ~~for lady~~. As ~~the~~ a result, the filament yarn made from bamboo constitutes most of the surface of the fabric and it was a fabric having a high quality feeling of dry touch and a good surface appearance. The absorption/desorption properties,  $\Delta MR$ , of both of ~~said the~~ the fabrics, were level 7, which is far larger than 4% of cotton, and it was recognizable at the time of wear. In addition, regarding antibacterial property, although it cannot be achieved entirely by conventional rayon product due to also the influence of false twisting, it was 1.7 in ~~said the~~ the fabric, according to the united evaluation method of SEK. Although 1.7 was under the passable level, by MAKSPEC process to impart an antibacterial component at

dyeing which is a ~~Toray's~~ processing technology of Toray Industries at dyeing and finishing process, the fabric could clear the SEK standard, 2.2 or more, after 20 times washing.

[0076]

[Table 1]

(Table 1)

				Example 1			Comparative example				
				Test yarn 135 dtex-30F (centrifugal spinning)			1			2	
							Yarn for comparison 120 dtex-30F (same as left)			Yarn for comparison (continuous spinning)	
				Outer layer	Middle layer	Inner layer	Outer layer	Middle layer	Inner layer	-	
Apparent yarn thickness (dtex)				137.4	140.3	141.3	129.0	130.8	132.9	83.9	
Tensile				Strength (cN)	209.8	212.1	210.8	264.4	261.4	262.1	136.3
				Elongation (%)	21.4	25.3	25.7	18.7	20.6	20.6	20.8
Boiling water contraction (%)				0.7	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.8	0.3	5.2	
Dry heat contraction				120°	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.9	
				160°C	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.9	
				180°C	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.9	
Colorimetry				L value	88.52	87.74	87.80	89.69	89.77	-	
				a value	-3.78	-4.12	-4.05	-9.36	-9.19	-	
				b value	8.05	8.16	8.48	0.36	0.65	0.76	

\* Measurements are based on JIS L1013 "Chemical fiber filament yarn test method"

\* However, colorimetry is conducted by densely distributed filament yarn on a flat aluminum plate, and L (lightness), a value (+ reddish, - bluish) and b value (+ yellowish, - bluish) were determined.